

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Applicants and their attorney thank Examiner Harlan for his careful review of the previously submitted Response and for the allowance of Claims 10-20 of the present application.

By the foregoing amendments, previously withdrawn Claims 1-9 and 21-23 have been cancelled. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional patent applications directed to one or more of cancelled Claims 1-9 and 21-23 during the pendency of the present application. Only allowed Claims 10-20 remain pending in the present application.

In addition, a typographical error has been discovered and the remaining foregoing amendments to the specification and Claims 10 and 13 are presented hereinabove solely for the purpose of correcting this error. More particularly, the process for preparing an extrudable powder blend of the present invention comprises blending a mixture comprising, among other things, at least one "high molecular weight polymer processing aid". The words "molecular weight" were inadvertently omitted from this phrase everywhere it appeared in the present application. By the foregoing amendments, this omission has been corrected in the present specification and in Claims 10 and 13. No changes have been made to the discussion of the meaning of the term "high molecular weight polymer processing aid" that was provided in the present specification, nor to the disclosure of exemplary high molecular weight polymer processing aids suitable for use in the present application. In the foregoing circumstances, it is respectfully submitted that these amendments do not alter the scope of allowed Claims 10-20 and their entry will not require further searching or

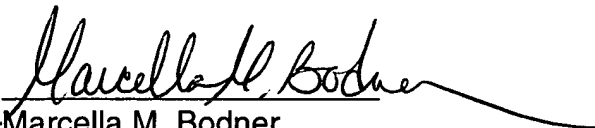
examination by Examiner Harlan. The present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner Harlan enter the foregoing amendments and issue a Notice Of Allowance And Fee(s) Due. If there remain any open issues which the Examiner believes can be resolved by a telephone call, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with the submission of this Amendment. In this regard, it is noted that the calculated due date of March 13, 2004 fell on a Saturday, whereby today, Monday, March 15, 2004 has become the de facto due date for filing this Amendment. If, however, any such fees, including extension and petition fees, are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them, as well as to credit any overpayments, to **Deposit Account No. 18-1850**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: **March 15, 2004**
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